

have some of the highest rates of poverty, poorest health, highest mortality rates, and lowest levels of educational achievement in the United States.

A unique legal and political relationship exists between the United States and Indian tribes that is reflected in the Constitution, various treaties, Federal statutes, Supreme Court decisions, and executive agreements. This creates a responsibility for the federal government to facilitate and complement tribal governments' efforts to improve the quality of life for Native Americans and encourage economic development in Indian Country. This bill does just that.

Numerous external efforts at economic development in Indian Country have proven unsuccessful. The most successful efforts have been initiated from within native communities themselves. Economic development efforts that empower native communities and give them the tools to make their own decisions should be encouraged and pursued.

I believe that education and economic development go hand-in-hand in Indian Country. Indeed, higher education is a fundamental form of economic development. Yet, an uneducated workforce continues to be a cyclical obstacle to economic growth in Indian Country.

The cycle is vicious. Businesses are often unwilling to locate in to Indian Country because of the lack of an educated workforce and Native American youth see little value in an advanced degree because there are no jobs on the Reservation that would reward one. Those native youth that do obtain a higher education often do not return to their communities because there are no jobs.

Higher education is costly to attain. As college and graduate school costs continue to swell, students are increasingly shouldering high levels of debt to pay for a college education. In fact, thirty-nine percent of student borrowers now graduate with levels of debt that require monthly payments in excess of eight percent of their total monthly incomes.

Loan repayment assistance for higher education graduates choosing to work in Indian Country will help break this cycle of poverty and promote economic development. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE CRYER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, all too often as I watch the evening news or open the paper, I am bombarded with stories of teens going down the wrong path. Today, I have the pleasure of celebrating a teen from my district, Caroline Cryer, who is excelling as an athlete and a student.

Caroline, who is the captain of the Cherry Creek lacrosse team, has been named All-American for the second-straight year. This past spring the senior was second in the state in assists (43) and points (101) after winning her third state championship in lacrosse. In addition, she was named both the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post player-of-

the-year and the Denver Post/Denver Athletic Club High School Student-Athlete of the Year.

Lacrosse is not the only sport Caroline has shown a talent for; she has excelled in both varsity field hockey and varsity basketball. She won a state championship in 2002 for varsity field hockey.

While participating in these extracurricular activities, Caroline has maintained a 3.76 GPA and graduated with the highest honor roll honors. She has decided to attend Duke University this fall, where she is sure to succeed after taking four college AP tests.

Mr. Speaker, with students like Caroline Cryer in our communities, the next generation promises to do great things. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Caroline here today, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DAVID UETTERLING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ELECTION TO STATE COMMANDER OF THE OHIO DIS- ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. David Uetterling of Defiance, Ohio on the occasion of his election as state commander of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans.

David Uetterling has a lifelong record of service to the people of Ohio and the people of America. David entered the United States Army in 1965 and served an 18-month tour of duty in Vietnam. David was injured while serving his country in Vietnam.

A resident of Defiance, Ohio, David has been a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Defiance Chapter 36 since 1982. He served 4 years as commander of the Defiance chapter. David has held various DAV offices at the state level and most recently served as bingo chairman and adjutant/treasurer.

During the 83rd Annual State Convention from June 10–12 in Dublin, Ohio, David Uetterling was unanimously elected state commander of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans, an organization comprised of more than 48,000 veterans. In addition to his service in the DAV, David is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, ELKS, and American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, the service of our disabled veterans is vital to the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. David Uetterling has effectively displayed leadership to his community through service to the many veterans organizations in which he is involved. His passion to advance the issues that affect veterans most makes him a model citizen of the Fifth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to David Uetterling. Our communities benefit greatly through his service. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize David Uetterling's great achievement. We wish David and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK BURGET

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Mark Burget of Boulder, Colorado and his hard work to advance the goals of The Nature Conservancy. Recently, Mark announced he would be leaving his position as the Colorado Director of the Nature Conservancy and moving on to The Nature Conservancy Director of the Global Priority Group. As he moves on in his career, I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Mark spent his childhood in Chester County, Pennsylvania. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, and his master's in business and Juris Doctoris degree from the University of Virginia, he began his work for the Nature Conservancy in 1992. Soon after, he accepted the appointment as Colorado State Director for the Nature Conservancy. He was Colorado Director for eleven years, where he worked hard to protect 416,000 acres of natural land in Colorado. His new position with the Nature Conservancy will be the Director of the Global Priority Group, where he will work to identify and to act on the most urgent needs for conservation across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Mike will serve The Nature Conservancy well in his new capacity. He has already done much to protect natural lands in the state of Colorado, and I am confident he will continue to build upon this proud legacy. I congratulate Mike on his new job and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER "MACKINAW"

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary vessel stationed in my district. For the last 60 years, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* and her crew have sailed the northern Great Lakes, keeping these vital waters open and safe. On August 12, past and present crew members of the *Mackinaw* will gather in Cheboygan, Michigan to celebrate the ship they affectionately refer to as "Big Mack" or "Queen of the Seas," and its six decades of service to the State of Michigan and the United States.

In 1941, the United States Congress authorized the construction of a new ice breaker for the Great Lakes. Three years later, on December 20, 1944, the *Mackinaw* was commissioned in Toledo, Ohio and made its maiden voyage to its new home, Cheboygan, Michigan. At 290 feet long, the *Mackinaw* was, and is, the largest and most powerful Coast Guard vessel on the Great Lakes.

Today, there are still men and women in Cheboygan who remember the *Mackinaw's* arrival in their harbor when thousands gathered on Christmas Eve to welcome the new cutter to their city. Since then, the residents of